norms and practices. They are also based upon the old documents and evidence at the sites.

Promotion of Tourism in Assam

2297. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the historical materials exposed after excavation of Maidaam No. 2 at Charaideo of Sivasagar District of Assam have not been properly preserved from the tourist interest point of view; and

(b) whether Government propose to take necessary action to preserve those to promote tourism to this region and interact with the ASI for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Historical materials exposed after excavation of Maidam No. 2 at Charaideo of Sivasagar District of Assam have been properly preserved and the area is being adequately developed from the tourist point of view. While some works such as construction of boundary wall and fencing, toilet block, parking and providing drinking water have been completed, some works are in progress.

Monuments of national importance

2298. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of monuments declared as monuments of national importance by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States, State-wise and monument-wise;

(b) what facilities have been provided by ASI for tourist in and around these monuments; and

(c) what efforts are being made for the conservation of these monuments of South India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The number of monuments declared as of national importance in Andhra Pradesh and other southern States is as under:

State/UT	Number of monuments/Site
Andhra Pradesh	136
Karnataka	506
Kerala	26
Pondicherry	7
Tamil Nadu	416

(b) Basic amenities e.g. drinking water, cultural notice boards, protection notice boards, pathways leading to the monument and ramps for physically handicapped have been provided at important centrally protected monuments in southern States.

(c) The conservation, preservation, day-to-day maintenance, environmental development and creating tourist related amenities in centrally protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India are continuously carried out as per archaeological norms.

Establishment of Science Cities

2299. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Science Cities which have been established in the country;

(b) the places where they are established;

(c) the amount released by Government to these Science Cities so far;

(d) whether there is any proposal to establish a Science City in Bangalore; and

(e) if so, what is the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The Science City, Kolkata set up by National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) has been in operation since 1997. Two more Science